

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.     An electronic apparatus for training an animal, comprising:
- 2                   (a)     a housing supported against the animal's skin by a strap;
- 3                   (b)     first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a surface of the housing;
- 4                   (c)     control circuitry in the housing including output terminals producing  
5           predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes;
- 6                   (d)     a stabilizing member connected to a location of the surface of the housing  
7           that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus electrodes,
- 8           whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing  
9           member are pressed against the skin of the animal and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of  
10          the first and second stimulus electrodes against the skin of the animal to reduce the occurrence  
11          and/or severity of skin sores.

1           2.     The electronic apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing member is non-  
2     conductive.

1           3.     The electronic apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing member is conductive.

1           4.     The electronic apparatus of claim 3 wherein the stabilizing member is electrically  
2     coupled to one of the first and second stimulus electrodes.

1           5.     The electronic apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second stimulus  
2     electrodes includes an elongated conductive probe coupled to the control circuitry and an  
3     insulator surrounding a portion of that stimulus electrode, an end portion of that stimulus  
4     electrode extending only sufficiently far beyond the insulator to avoid substantial shunting of  
5     electrical stimulus current between the first and second stimulus electrodes through the animal's  
6     fur when the animal's fur is wet.

1           6.     The electronic apparatus of claim 5 wherein the end portion of each stimulus  
2 electrode extends approximately 1/10 of an inch beyond the insulator of that stimulus electrode.

1           7.     A collar-mounted electronic apparatus for training an animal, comprising:

2                   (a)     a housing supported by a collar for attachment to the animal's neck;

3                   (b)     first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a top surface of the  
4 housing;

5                   (c)     control circuitry in the housing including output terminals producing  
6 predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes;

7                   (d)     a stabilizing post connected to a location of the top surface of the housing  
8 that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus electrodes so that  
9 conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and a tip of the stabilizing post define  
10 a triangle,

11 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing  
12 post are pressed against the neck of the animal and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of the

13 first and second stimulus electrodes against the neck of the animal to reduce the occurrence  
14 and/or severity of neck sores.

1 8. The electronic apparatus of claim 7 wherein the stabilizing member is non-  
2 conductive.

1 9. The electronic apparatus of claim 7 wherein the stabilizing member is conductive.

1 10. The electronic apparatus of claim 9 wherein the stabilizing member is electrically  
2 coupled to one of the first and second stimulus electrodes.

1 11. An electronic apparatus for control of nuisance vocalizations by a dog,  
2 comprising:

3 (a) a housing supported by a strap against the dog's skin;

4 (b) first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a surface of the housing;

5 (c) a sensor supported by the housing for producing signals in response to  
6 vocalization by the dog;

7 (d) control circuitry in the housing having an input coupled to an output of the  
8 sensor, the control circuitry including output terminals coupled to produce aversive stimulus  
9 signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes in response to the signals produced in  
10 response to the vocalization by the dog;

11 (e) a stabilizing member connected to a location of the surface of the housing  
12 that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus electrodes so that  
13 conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and a tip of the stabilizing post define  
14 a triangle,

15 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing  
16 member are pressed against the skin of the dog and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of the  
17 first and second stimulus electrodes against the skin of the dog to reduce the occurrence and/or  
18 severity of skin sores.

1           12.    The electronic apparatus of claim 11 wherein the stabilizing member is non-  
2   conductive.

1           13.    The electronic apparatus of claim 11 wherein the stabilizing member is  
2   conductive.

1           14.    The electronic apparatus of claim 13 wherein the stabilizing member is  
2   electrically coupled to one of the first and second stimulus electrodes.

1           15.    A collar-mounted electronic apparatus for control of barking by a dog,  
2   comprising:

3           (a)    a housing supported by a collar for attachment to the dog's neck;

4           (b)    first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a top surface of the  
5   housing;

6 (c) a vibration sensor supported by the housing for detecting vibrations caused  
7 by barking by the dog;

8 (d) control circuitry in the housing having an input coupled to an output of the  
9 vibration sensor, the control circuitry including output terminals coupled to produce aversive  
10 stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes in response to barking by the  
11 dog;

12 (e) a stabilizing post connected to a location of the top surface of the housing  
13 that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus electrodes so that  
14 conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and a tip of the stabilizing post define  
15 a triangle,

16 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing  
17 post are pressed against the neck of the dog and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of the first  
18 and second stimulus electrodes against the neck of the dog to reduce the occurrence and/or  
19 severity of neck sores.

1 16. The collar-mounted apparatus of claim 15 wherein the heights of the first and  
2 second stimulus electrodes and the stabilizing post are at least approximately equal.

1           17.    The collar-mounted apparatus of claim 15 wherein the stabilizing post is non-  
2   conductive.

1           18.    The collar-mounted apparatus of claim 17 wherein the stabilizing post is integral  
2   with the top surface of the housing.

1           19.    A method of training an animal, comprising:

2                   (a)    supporting an electronic training device against the animal's skin, the  
3   electronic training device including a housing and first and second stimulus electrodes connected  
4   to a surface of the housing and control circuitry in the housing including output terminals  
5   producing predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus  
6   electrodes; and

7                   (b)    preventing rocking of the conductive tips of the first and second stimulus  
8   electrodes on the skin of the animal by providing a stabilizing member that is connected to a  
9   location of the surface of the housing and that is offset from a straight line between the first and



10 second stimulus electrodes wherein conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes  
11 and the tip of the stabilizing member are pressed against the skin of the animal and stabilize the  
12 electronic training device so as to prevent the rocking and thereby reduce the occurrence and/or  
13 severity of skin sores.

1 20. An electronic apparatus for training an animal, comprising:

2 (a) means for supporting the electronic training device against the animal's  
3 skin;

4 (b) a housing and first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a surface  
5 of the housing;

6 (c) control circuitry in the housing including output terminals connected to  
7 produce predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus  
8 electrodes; and

9 (d) stabilizing means that is connected to a location of the surface of the  
10 housing and that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus electrodes for  
11 preventing rocking of conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes on the skin of

12 the animal wherein conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the  
13 stabilizing member are pressed against the skin of the animal and are prevented from rocking and  
14 thereby reduce the occurrence and/or severity of skin sores.